

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is being submitted in response to the Communication mailed May 8, 2006. The Communication requests a fully responsive reply to the earlier issued Office Action. In the Office Action mailed July 21, 2005, claims 1 and 7 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,291,593 to Abraham, *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,965 to Kavanagh, *et al.* Claims 2-6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 5, cancelled claim 5, amended claim 6, and added new claim 25. No new matter has been added by these Amendments. Support for the Amendment may be found in the Specification and the claims as originally filed. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file a continuation application to pursue the subject matter of original claim 1 before the amendment above and the subject matter of claim 7. Reconsideration of the currently pending claims, 1, 2, 4-6, and 25 is respectfully requested in light of the amendment above and the remarks below.

I. Claims 1, 2- 4-6, and 25

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Before the amendment above, claim 5 depended directly from claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 5. Since Examiner indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if all the limitations of the base claim, claim 1, were incorporated, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1, as amended, be withdrawn. Claims 2, 4-6, and 25 depend from amended claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, and Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to claims 2 and 4-6 be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 25 are allowable. A favorable Office Action is respectfully solicited.

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Should the Examiner have any comments, questions or suggestions of a nature necessary to expedite the prosecution of the application, or to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is courteously requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 6, 2006

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